

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for arthroscopically delivering a tissue scaffold to a damaged or injured tissue site, comprising:

a first component for receiving and dispensing the tissue scaffold having a funnel-shaped proximal end, a distal end, and an elongate, hollow body extending therebetween, the elongate body defining a passageway extending from the funnel-shaped ~~flared~~-proximal end to the distal end; and

a second component having an elongate body with a blunt tip at a distal end, the tip having a diameter less than the diameter of the elongate body, the elongate body being configured to be removably disposed within the first component for sliding along the passageway, the second component including at least one sealing ring around the elongate body proximal to the tip.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the passageway includes a first, flared portion extending into a second, tubular portion.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the first, flared portion has a curved tapered shape.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the flared proximal end of the first component has a diameter in the range of about 15 mm to about 50 mm.

5. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the second, tubular portion has a diameter in the range of about 5 mm to about 17 mm.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the tip of the second component comprises a spherical tip.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein the spherical tip has a diameter in the range of about 6 mm to about 10 mm.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An instrument for arthroscopically delivering a tissue scaffold to a damaged or injured tissue site, comprising:

an insertion tube having a funnel-shaped proximal end, a distal end and a hollow passageway extending therebetween; and

an insertion rod having an elongate shaft extending into a handle at a proximal end and a blunt tip at a distal end, the diameter of the tip being less than the diameter of the elongate shaft, the elongate shaft being configured to be removably disposed within the insertion tube for sliding along the passageway and contacting the tissue scaffold disposed within the insertion device; the insertion rod including a pair of sealing rings around the elongate shaft.

10. (Original) The instrument of claim 9, wherein the passageway includes a first, flared portion extending into a second, tubular portion.

11. (Original) The instrument of claim 10, wherein the first, flared portion has a curved, tapered shape.

12. (Original) The instrument of claim 10, wherein the second, tubular portion has a diameter in the range of about 6 mm to about 17 mm.

13. (Original) The instrument of claim 12, wherein the second, tubular portion has a diameter in the range of about 7 mm to about 9 mm.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 9, wherein the flared proximal end of the insertion tube has a diameter in the range of about 15 mm to about 50 mm.

16. (Original) The instrument of claim 9, wherein the blunt tip of the insertion rod comprises a spherical tip.

17. (Original) The instrument of claim 16, wherein the spherical tip has a diameter in the range of about 6 mm to about 10 mm.

18. (Original) The instrument of claim 17, wherein the spherical tip has a diameter in the range of about 6 mm to about 8 mm.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method for delivering a tissue scaffold to an injured or defective tissue, comprising the steps of:

providing a delivery system comprising an insertion tube having a proximal end, a distal end and a passageway extending therebetween, and an insertion rod having an elongate shaft extending into a handle at a proximal end and a blunt tip at a distal end, the elongate shaft being configured to be removably disposed within the insertion tube for sliding along the passageway;

loading a tissue scaffold into insertion tube from the flared proximal end; and

depressing the insertion rod against the tissue scaffold and toward the distal end until the tissue scaffold exits the distal end of the insertion tube.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the steps are performed arthroscopically.